

# TOC H JOURNAL

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## Painting and Toc H

LAST MONTH readers had details of a picture exhibition in London, a money-raising effort for Toc H funds, under the name of *Painting is a Pleasure*. Since then it has been held and was such a success from the start that it was extended from a fortnight to a month (June 6—July 2).

The whole idea, an original one, came from Mrs. Rex Benson who had already done us great service by enlisting large-scale American contributions to the Services Fund in the war years. Now she seized the occasion of the Festival of Britain and the height of the London 'season' to help the Family Purse by a show in the West End. Her enterprise was rewarded by good 'houses' and much notice in the Press.

None of the exhibitors were professional artists, and few people suspected that George Robey, Lord Alexander, David Niven, Clemence Dane, or Edward G. Robinson (to name a few) could paint pictures so well worth seeing. When the show was opened by Douglas Fairbanks, Jnr., one of the artists, the room was crammed to suffocation; the Duchess of Gloucester was there among other exhibitors. Next day the Duchess of Kent, who had a picture on the walls, came in, and a day or two later, quite unannounced, Queen Mary. So the show drew 'rank and fashion' as well as the plain man. It was a social and an artistic event in one.

Our Bursar was often to be found there, and a rota of H.Q. staff and others sat at the receipt of custom. Some Toc H literature lay on the table and soon went, and there were opportunities to 'talk Toc H' to visitors. We greeted old friends and hope to have made new ones.

# A South African Venture

Here 'BILL' EVANS, Area Padre of Toc H, Natal, describes a great venture of faith in which he is himself bearing a large part. It is also a 'corporate job' on the grand scale for which the whole Family in South Africa is making itself responsible.

WITHIN THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS, there has been an interchange of visits between Toc H U.K. and Toc H S.A. Barkis and Ron Anderson have each in turn invaded the other's country. In his book *An African Transit*, Barkis refers to the proposed Toc H T.B. Settlement for Africans at Bothas Hill (Natal). Since his departure from our land the work has gone on very steadily and the project is now taking shape.

There is, I know, a certain criticism of Toc H in South Africa that we are limited by a Colour Bar. At the moment I have no wish to attack or defend in this matter. But Toc H in S.A. is trying to meet at least some of its responsibilities to the non-European, and it is of this that I am writing.

## A mighty enemy

Although South Africa is a land of sunshine and open spaces, it is a land threatened by a mighty enemy, that of the disease of T.B. Every year 20,000 people in this country die of this disease, of whom by far the greatest number are Natives. No country can afford to allow unchecked such a state of affairs. It is a most serious threat to our economic prosperity. But far more than that, the expense in terms of human sorrow and degradation cannot be measured.

The Government and Provincial Authorities are doing a great deal to fight this disease, but there is also a necessity for voluntary bodies to help, especially in the way of settlements, which are one new and important weapon in the fight.

The purpose of such settlements is to provide accommodation for:

- (1) Those convalescing after the necessary treatment in hospital and to assist them in their rehabilitation. (It must be remembered that such a convalescent period may go on for eighteen months or more, but the technical skill of the fully-equipped hospital is not necessary, and cheaper hospital treatment can be given by the Settlements).

- (2) Those who have just caught the disease and who may be cured by rest, good food and skilled nursing without going to a hospital proper.
- (3) Primary T.B. cases (many children who have T.B. of the bones).
- (4) The families of those who have the disease.

It is fundamental to make provision for these people for three reasons :

- (a) The native is always concerned about his family and often leaves hospital before he is cured in order to make sure his family is not suffering hardship through his absence.
- (b) Without assistance the family may suffer great hardship through the absence of the bread-winner.
- (c) As they may have been in close contact with an infected person they are liable to become infected themselves and therefore should be under observation.

### **Planned effort**

The Settlement will consist therefore of a small hospital, cottages for convalescents, family cottages for contact cases, Community centre, Rehabilitation centre, School, Store, Staff quarters and playing fields.

Every effort will be made to get the natives living there to work in some capacity or other on the Settlement and to make it as near self-supporting as possible. So there will be land set aside for agriculture and there will be a store at which the natives can buy their requirements and also be guided as to what to buy.

It is a very big venture. When fully developed it will have cost approximately £40,000, and will cost £36,000 a year to maintain. A certain amount of this money will be met by Government grants and subsidies.

### **Act of Faith**

Toc H Natal (and the S.A. Council) undertook this work as an act of faith. We were presented with the challenge. The call could not be ignored. Without money and without personnel we decided to go ahead with this scheme, in faith that it would win the support of the people to whom we would

turn for help and above all in faith that God had put this task before us and it would be done in His strength—not ours.

We have not as yet launched our main appeal, but without much effort already over £1,600 has come in, and the work of building has started. The response from those to whom we have turned to join us in this work has been most enheartening. We hope—before the end of this year—to be taking in patients.

### Means to an end

Yet to stop here would be to give only half the story. The challenge came to Toc H as a whole, it also came to certain individuals. Don McKenzie, the Natal Area Chairman, felt that this work was his vocation and so he surrendered his position in Durban, surrendered his economic security and future in order to take on this work, accepting poverty as part of the vocation. This was done before we had made any definite steps to commence the work. It was an act of great faith. When he moved from Durban to Bothas Hill he was joined by 'Baldy' Le Roux, a Marksman from Toc H House Durban (not as yet a Toc H man), a pensioner who went, without pay, to make his contribution. Other Toc H men and women have offered their services in this same spirit when we are ready to accept them. No Movement cannot but be strengthened by such actions and by such faith. Indeed it is impossible to say where God may lead us as a result. We feel that this 'Job' may become a spiritual power house for Toc H in Natal. Some of us are trying to plan for a Toc H centre adjoining the Settlement of which the focal point will be a church built to the glory of God. Here we pray may grow up a community of men and women bound together by a common discipline and united in a common spiritual effort. Whence also we pray this strength may flow to the Branches and members of our Family and perchance to a wider circle. If this happens then eventually the T.B. Settlement will become one means to an end. That end, which is the end of man, the unity of sacrificial worship to Him Who is the Beginning and the Ending—even God.

W.R.P.E.

# From Gobbleston to Bestwick

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NO MENTION of either Bestwick, or Gobbleston, is to be found in any gazetteer. The published list of Toc H Branches is equally silent. To outward appearances they have never existed; but a number of members in East Midlands Area know better. For them, Bestwick has been a real unit of Toc H and the liveliest most have ever known. Earlier this year it made local history and still continues to bear fruit. This is how it all came about.

## Start of the journey

It started with an article in the JOURNAL (October, 1950) which told the story of a District Team deliberately bringing into being a Branch for a 'life' of only six weeks. It claimed parentage and took its title from the mythical unit of Gobbleston, created by Barkis in the *Bridge Builders*. The article suggested that here was a method which could be used by Districts, to enrich and deepen the Family life, on their own doorsteps.

Among those who read the article were some members of Coalville District Team. Their District, made up of seven Branches (an eighth, Packington, has since been added) struck them as being suitable and they were keen to try-out the suggestion. The idea took root and after much consideration it was decided to give the 'Branch' a run of seven weeks, during which time it would meet at each Branch's rooms in turn. For title they took the initial letters of all their Branches, and so Bestwick was born.

## The route

A programme was planned, and experienced speakers were invited to supply the main features at each meeting. The large number of questions that followed each talk provided ample evidence of the success of this item which, as the following extract shows, covered a wide field:

FIRST NIGHT (*Ibstock*)

EARLY DAYS AND REBIRTH.  
A comprehensive outline, given by 'Skipper' Emmerson, a Vice-president of Toc H and a local member.

SECOND NIGHT (*Bordon Hill*)

## THE CHARTER, MAIN RESOLUTION AND FOUR POINTS.

The foundations of the Movement discussed intimately by Padre George Jager of Leicester.

THIRD NIGHT (*Whitwick*)

## LITERATURE OF TOC H.

The part played by the printed word in spreading Toc H, portrayed by F. G. Chesworth, Assistant Editor of the JOURNAL.

FOURTH NIGHT (*Ellistown*)

## MEMBERSHIP AND MACHINERY.

How Toc H is run. The set-up from Branch Executive to Central Council, explained by Harry Gee, East Midlands H.A.C.

FIFTH NIGHT (*Cole Orton*)

## TOC H AT WORK.

A backward glance at work accomplished followed by practical suggestions for future operations by Don Bissell, Warden Mark XI.

SIXTH NIGHT (*Swannington*)

## WHITHER TOC H?

"Where you take it" was the answer supplied to this question by A. E. Brunswick (Chairman Area Executive).

SEVENTH NIGHT (*Coalville*)

## RENEWAL.

Padre Norman Motley (Chief Anglican Padre) talked on three great needs: (1) A deeper sense of community. (2) The Christian faith had to tie-up with every-day life. (3) Despite differences, the Christian Churches must be joined closer together.

### Wayside refreshment

Other ingredients in the programme included a weekly sing-song which went with a swing, although it was noticeable that the songs chosen were all old and well-tried ones. A 'miss' was given to any weekly Padre's innings and by the same token there were no Poetry readings. While it is not hard to realise the obstacles likely to be encountered in putting over the idea of a five-minute reading of verse (I recall that the hard-headed Brummagen lads took a deal of convincing on this point) it *can* be done, and any experiment that helps to avoid the 'sameness'—and staleness—of a Branch meeting-night, is surely worth a trial.

Of the men who made Bestwick into a real and living Branch, the collected figures show a total attendance of 253.



*Members of Coalville District Team who planned the journey from Gobbleston to Bestwick*

Spread over the seven evenings—with an average of thirty-six per meeting, this was pretty good going. But the figures of themselves can convey little or nothing of the rich diversity of men they represent. On the night I was there it was heartening to meet with colliery workers and officials; farm-workers, tradesmen and professional men; a student and a bus-conductor; a detective-constable and—but the list is far too long and varied to be set down here. With such richness of mixture, Bestwick's success was assured.

### **Unending Trail**

It is not easy to assess the results of this venture. Its effect throughout the District has been, and is still being, strongly felt. I would not suggest that before this Coalville District were in a rut—their recent record of expansion is all against their being so. But, there is no shadow of doubt that Bestwick has brought them increased vitality and a deeper sense of purpose. There are many other places where such a short-term 'Branch' could do as much. The trail that started from Gobbleston need not end at Bestwick. Perhaps there is room for it to be continued through your District?

**CHES.**



# The Elder Brethren

AMES.—On May 18, WALTER ERNEST AMES, aged 72, a member of Gorleston Branch. Elected 27.1.'47.

BARNES.—On April 21, ERNEST BARNES, aged 61, a member of Dunstable Branch. Elected 1.10.'46.

BEATTIE.—In April, ALEXANDER ELDER BEATTIE, C.M.G., C.B.E., aged 63, a Central General Member. Elected 28.6.'34.

BELL.—On April 17, WALTER EDGAR BELL, aged 70, a former member of Market Bosworth Branch. Elected 9.5.'47.

BLACKMAN.—On June 10, very suddenly, B. J. BLACKMAN ('Blackie'), aged 45, a member of Putney Branch. Elected 10.7.'44.

BRIMSON.—In May, ALFRED SIMEON BRIMSON, a member of Newport Branch. Elected 11.3.'33 to Ealing Branch.

CANNING.—On April 28, REGINALD EDWARD CANNING, aged 48, a member of Hounslow Branch. Elected 3.2.'39.

CHANDLER.—On May 31, ARTHUR BERTIE CHANDLER, aged 52, a member of Dartmouth Branch. Elected 7.4.'49.

FIRTH.—On May 7, ARTHUR FIRTH, a member of Pontefract Branch. Elected 1.11.'37.

HAMMOND.—On May 3, GEORGE HAMMOND, aged 70, a former member of New Swindon Branch. Elected 23.2.'41.

HAWES.—On April 24, GEORGE HERBERT HAWES, aged 75, a member of Port Isaac Branch. Elected 18.6.'41.

INGRAM.—On April 19, J. P. INGRAM, aged 70, a member of Horsham Branch. Elected 5.6.'28.

ISON.—On April 3, SYDNEY ISON, aged 64, a founder member of Dorking Branch. Elected 27.2.'31.

LANGMEAD.—In April, WILLIAM LANGMEAD, aged 78, a founder member of Tottenham Branch. Elected 14.1.'26.

LYNDS.—On May 20, THEOPHILUS WILLIAM LYNDS, aged 68, a member of Dartford Branch. Elected 25.6.'46.

McINTOSH.—On January 31, JOHN MOORE McINTOSH, ('Old Mac'), aged 72, a member of Hookstones Branch. Elected 13.11.'45.

MADDOCK.—On May 20, ALBERT JOHN JAMES MADDOCK, aged 46, a member of Southgate Branch. Elected 3.3.'44.

NEWLANDS.—On May 19, HUGH NEWLANDS ('Jock'), aged 63, late of Toc H War Services Clubs in Tunis and Bari. Elected 10.11.'43.

PLEYDELL-BOUVERIE.—In May, Capt the Hon. EDWARD PLEYDELL-BOUVERIE, aged 51, a member of the Central General Branch. Elected 10.6.'36.

QUAYLE.—On May 16, WILLIAM QUAYLE, aged 58, a member of Rugby Branch. Elected 11.3.'41.

RAYMER.—On April 26, ROBERT RAYMER, aged 38, a member of Hull Branch. Elected 10.11.'32.

REARDON.—On May 25, WILLIAM REARDON, aged 55, a member of Langstone Branch. Elected 13.10.'50.

REID.—On May 14, ALEXANDER ROBERT REID, aged 41, a member of St. Ninian's Branch (Nairn). Elected 17.12.'41.

ROGERS.—On May 3, JOHN ROGERS, aged 53, a member of Haverfordwest Branch. Elected 2.3.'48.

ROSEWARNE.—On March 19, JAMES EDWARD ROSEWARNE, aged 66, a member of Plympton Branch. Elected 20.10.'49.

SLADEN.—On May 4, in Alderney, LESLIE ST. BARBE SLADEN, a member of the Central General Branch. Elected 1.1.'22.

THOMPSON.—On May 11, CECIL THOMPSON, aged 21, a member of Victoria, Belfast Branch. Elected 11.1.'49.

WALDIN.—On April 29, FREDERICK WALDIN, aged 58, a member of Countesthorpe Branch. Elected 11.6.'48.

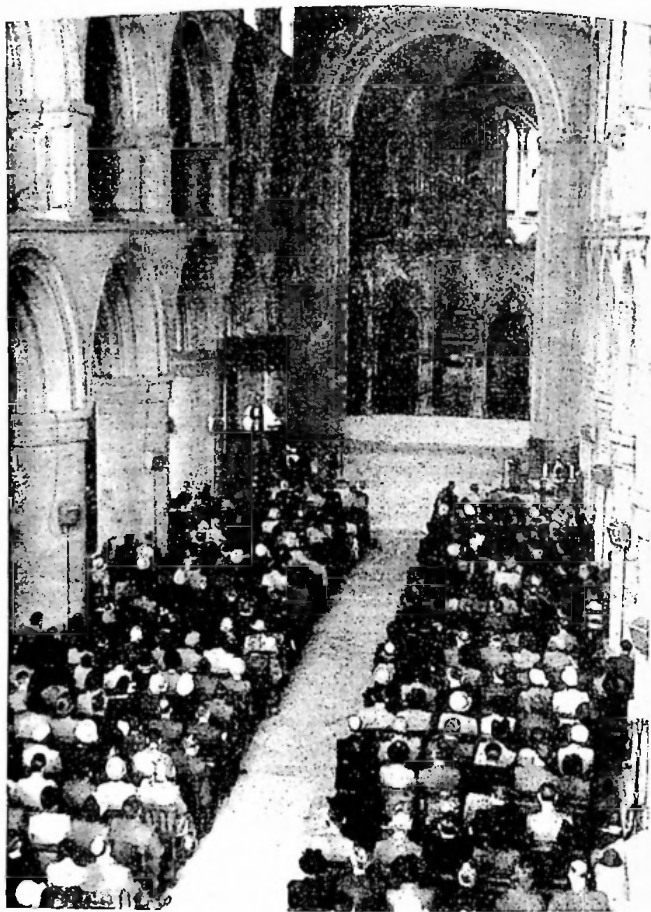
WYLLIE.—On May 3, ROBERT KENNEDY WYLLIE ('Jock'), aged 76, Pilot of Kennington (Kent) Branch. Elected 11.7.'33.

## Festival at Southwell

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CROWDS FROM ALL PARTS of the Notts and Derby Area came together on Saturday, May 26 to take part in the Area's first post-war Festival, which was held at Southwell Minster. The only dull thing about it was the weather, but the threat of rain in no way dulled the spirits of those who gathered in the Minster for the Festival Service. What a crowd! All told, 1,126 people filled the Nave.

The Service was conducted by the Rev. Canon R. N. ('Dick') Craig, M.C., the Hon. Area Padre, the Lesson being read by the Area Chairman, George Gibson, and the Sermon preached by the Provost of Southwell, the Very Rev. H. C. L. Heywood.



NOTTS & DERBY FESTIVAL: *Part of the congregation in the Nave of Southwell Minster.*

During his sermon the Provost said that the world's complicated problems could be solved, not necessarily by resolute systems, but by simple living. Reminding us of the spiritual foundation and background of Toc H, the Provost said that there were three things that the world needed today. Firstly, the re-discovery of the power of Prayer, especially in our homes.

Secondly, the re-discovery of the place of the Bible as God's inspired word. And thirdly, the re-discovery of the place of the Church in our family lives.

The interval between the Service and the Family Gathering was enlivened by selections played to us by the Rolls-Royce Works Band and by a Gymnastic Display given by a team of boys from Lowdham Grange. The latter was watched eagerly by the Red Cross Detachment on duty, perhaps in the hope of getting custom.

In all our arrangements, and they were legion, the children had not been forgotten. When the time came for the Evening Gathering, they were placed under the care of Mansfield Branch, and a good time was had by all. A film show, Punch and Judy, a conjurer and a ventriloquist were all at hand to entertain them, and from the excited comments of the audience one wonders whether this was not the best part of the Festival.

From 6.30 p.m. to 7 o'clock, Dr. Robert Ashfield, organist to the Minster, gave a Recital, and promptly at 7 o'clock the glorious notes of William Walton's *Crown Imperial* merged into the National Anthem. Immediately afterwards the Provost welcomed us to the Minster. He told us that the Nave was originally the meeting place of the village, and was often used in days long past for local Parliaments and other meetings. It was therefore appropriate that the Nave should be used for a meeting of Toc H, and he asked that we make ourselves at home in it. The Area Chairman thanked the Provost for his hospitality and for all the help that we had been given.

Norman Motley, Chief Anglican Padre, was our guest speaker, and right glad we were to have him with us. Under his guidance we re-learned many of the simple things of Toc H and of Christianity and, even more important, we learned of the everyday merging of the two. As Norman said, "No person is any good to either Toc H or the Church when he is too heavenly-minded to be of any earthly use".

After Norman's talk, 'Light' was explained and taken by Denis Gilman, former Area Chairman, and as the Banners were carried out in procession to the strains of *Thy hand, O God, has guided* everyone felt that it was a most fitting climax to a wonderful Festival.

G.A.F.



## KHAMARIA GLIMMER

THIS SUB-TITLE is cribbed from the April copy of *The Lamp of India*. There is a good deal in this number which will interest members elsewhere in the world, but under this heading is an account by an Indian member of an attempt being made to sow Toc H in unusually stony soil. What is impressive is that the writer, Chris Airan, "learned" his Toc H in India and has never had a chance of seeing it anywhere else. But you read this extract for yourself and see what you make of it:

"I was naturally disheartened, in a way, when I was asked to spend another year at a Station, unkindly dubbed as a God-forsaken place, bearing the unknown name of Khamaria. When I arrived, there seemed to be no life anywhere. The streets, if they may be so called generously, were deserted. It was an uncomfortably cold and cloudy afternoon; it was drizzling. Every house I saw had its doors and windows shut against the cold wind. There seemed to be fires lighted in every fireplace in every house. Another Kirkee friend welcomed me to his home with hot tea and sandwiches in front of a glowing fire and later, after washing away the stains of travel, to a sumptuous dinner.

"Khamaria is an open country, a settlement set in a valley surrounded by hills and jungles which would gladden the heart of any *shikari*. But at about six o'clock, the sun vanished completely from the horizon, thick mist set in, the cold wind started blowing harder and packs of jackals commenced their chorus of howling just outside my verandah. The streets were dark and narrow; the road drains were deep. I was told that this was not all that I should have to put up with. The wild pigs raid the gardens; the hyenas pay occasional visits and laugh at you; the panthers prowl around the outskirts of the settlement and the spot where I stayed was once a hamlet in which Thugs lived but did not let others live. And I was asked to be prepared for the extreme winter, extreme summer, extreme monsoon, black cobras everywhere and within houses, large

scorpions, mosquitoes and a large variety of insects which pay seasonal visits. This was not very encouraging for a new-comer.

"But there was a brighter side to this life. Early the next morning when the mercury was down at 36°F., and I was hoping to stay longer in bed tucked under four blankets, I received a message desiring my presence in office within half an hour; and forgetting all Toc H spirit for the moment, I cursed and swore and went to find myself, to my great surprise, lined up with certain others and presented to the President of the Indian Union, who was on an official visit to the District; and to be surrounded subsequently by many old friends of Kirkee vying with one another with offers to do what they can to make me happy and comfortable at my age in an uncomfortable and inconvenient sojourn here. This was the silver lining in the dark cloud of life in Khamaria. . . . Here was good material for Toc H and both (two friends) were keen on getting others to join them for team work within a recognised circle like Toc H.

"The North India Regional Executive, through Peter Mitchell and Jim Rothwell, gave us the blessing to do what we can and R.D.P., the All-India Commissioner, sent encouraging advice and good wishes. So the first meeting was held on Saturday, March 10; and after a cup of tea, those present were told by me and Jerry all about the history and the purpose of Toc H, and their questions were answered. Jerry had prepared for the occasion a special candlestick decorated with Toc H colours, and equipped himself with the Minute Book and other paraphernalia. Five out of seven present offered to become Probationers thus starting off Khamaria glimmer of Toc H with two members and five probationers.

"What we can achieve in a God-forsaken place like this is a matter for conjecture; we do not know yet. There is no Church, no market, no picture house, no school and no shops; no conveyances, no proper roads; the houses are dilapidated and crumbling down. But there is an eighty-bed Hospital about three miles away at the other end of the settlement. Hospital visiting would be the primary job for most of us and indeed this had been commenced by the members even before we received permission to form a Toc H centre.

"So, we hope, by God's grace, to be able to serve our fellow men in a small and humble way in such an out-of-the-way place like Khamaria. We shall try to check all bitterness, disown discouragement and leap with joy to any task for others. We only need the prayers of other units."

## MATCH MAKING

Odd things are always happening in Toc H. Every now and then a shaft of light illuminates some inconsequential little scene and the reflection kindles a sympathetic light in the eye of the onlooker. It may even warm his heart.

For instance; an old member of Redditch Branch, Arthur Hobbs, now a Sergeant in Korea, has a war-cum-peacetime history which goes rather like this. First, Malaya in 1946, then to India, then back to Malaya, home to England, back to Malaya, on to Hong Kong, England once more, demobilisation, recalled to the colours in 1950, drafted to Korea and *en route* called at Singapore. His Troop Officer of 1946 was demobbed and disappeared from sight and no subsequent attempts to discover him ever succeeded. Now, finding himself again in Singapore and knowing the ropes, Arthur took a friend and a taxi straight to Talbot House where Bill Muir and his company made them feel thoroughly at home. They were all mending toys for the children at Christmastime, and the two newcomers lent a hand. Presently they were joined by another resident—the missing Troop Officer. That's all.

And here is another item—just fifteen lines of a letter written from Chichester Theological College by K. D. Franklin.

"On July 27 I am sailing for Sandakan in British North Borneo to take up the position of Principal in St. Michael's School under the auspices of the S.P.G. My appointment there arose entirely from Nigel Cornwall's article in *Far Cry*—Toc H JOURNAL in June, 1950. I am in touch with him, so I am not concerned about contact with Toc H once I arrive there. However, I should be grateful for any contacts *en route*, especially in Singapore where we (my wife, son and I) shall have to spend several days awaiting transport to Borneo."

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## POPERINGHE WORKING PARTY

Volunteers wanted to redecorate rooms in the Old House from August 24—31. Some help with expenses may be given if required. Apply to Pilgrimage Secretary, H.Q.

# Areas Surveyed

## XIII—Wales

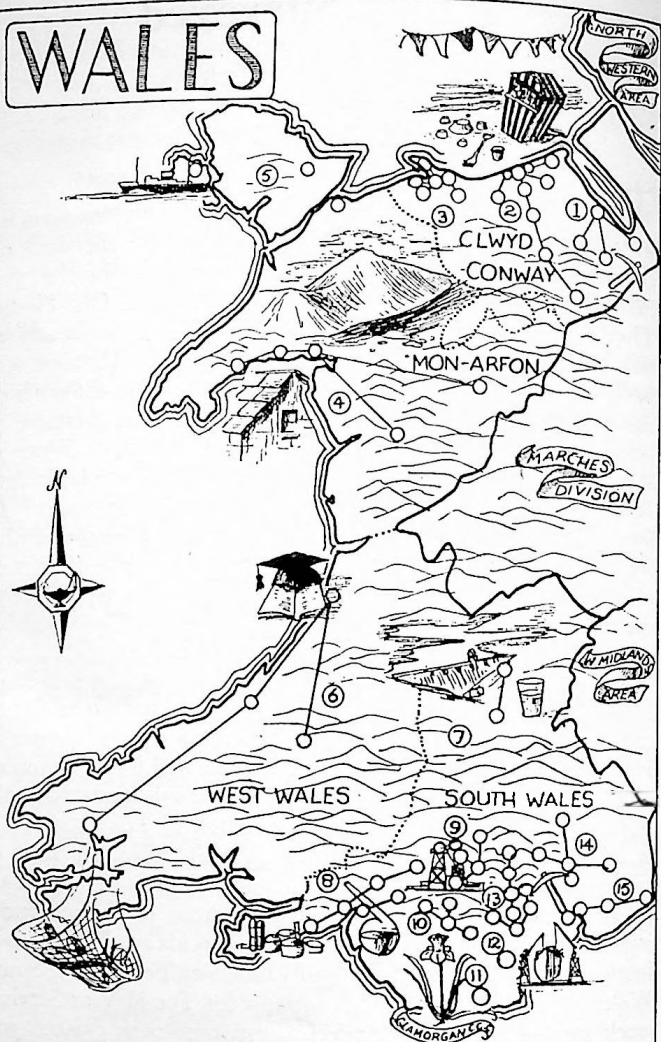
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TUBBY has often said that Toc H was at some disadvantage in Wales because of the very serious effect of Passchendaele on the 38th (Welsh) Division. Officers and men of the 38th (Welsh) Division had been great friends of the Old House. The songs of Wales were often heard within its walls and no task was too menial for any Welshman. The Division was badly broken up at Passchendaele and very few of those whose names were on record at Pop survived. Instead therefore of being the experience of Welshmen Toc H came in to Wales as something experienced in a foreign country by soldiers and others who did not serve in Units bearing Welsh names. In most parts of the United Kingdom men were to be found who were able to say of Toc H "I know—I was there". The men of Wales who would have been the most ardent supporters at the re-birth of Toc H had been left in Flanders.

### A ready response

The story of Toc H, however, met with ready response in the industrial valleys of Wales and along the coast in the north. Here and there other contacts were made and by the outbreak of war, Toc H had succeeded in gaining a substantial foothold in the principality. The war took its toll of Toc H as it did of all other like movements and a small cadre remained to carry on its work. Services Clubs and Hostels of Toc H set up in Wales were much favoured because of their friendly atmosphere. There is good reason for pride in the way such work was done by the men and women of Toc H. In South Wales an appeal for financial support for Toc H War Services work met with a very wonderful response—over £50,000 was contributed from East Glamorgan and Monmouthshire apart from what was made available by the rest of Wales. However, this survey must concern itself with Toc H in Wales *today*.

# WALES



It will be seen from the map that much of the country is still untouched by Toc H, and penetration, although quietly taking place, will not be very much felt in the Welsh countryside for some years. In some respects Wales had peculiarities which we have heard spoken of as being present in South Africa. We

KEY TO TOC H BRANCHES AND GROUPS ON MAP OPPOSITE

CLWYD-CONWY DIVISION

1. MOLD DISTRICT: Buckley, Flint, Mold, Queensferry.
2. VALE OF CLWYD DISTRICT: Abergele, St. Asaph, Denbigh, Dyserth, Prestatyn, Rhuddlan, Rhyl Central, Rhyl North, Rhyl South, Ruthin.
3. VALE OF CONWAY DISTRICT: Colwyn Bay, Conway, Craig-y-don, Llandudno, Llandudno Junction, Penrhyn Bay.

MON-ARFON DIVISION

4. SOUTH CAERNARVONSHIRE & MERIONETH: Criccieth, Dolgelly, Portmadoc, Pwllheli, Llanuwchllyn.
5. UNATTACHED UNITS: Bangor, Holyhead, Pentraeth.

WEST WALES DIVISION

6. UNATTACHED UNITS: Aberystwyth, Haverfordwest, Lampeter, Llanllwch.

SOUTH WALES DIVISION

7. MID-WALES DISTRICT: Builth Wells, Llandrindod Wells,
8. NEATH DISTRICT: Crynant, Glynneath, Neath, Resolven, Skewen, Swansea.
9. ABERDARE & MERTHYR: Aberdare, Cefn Coed, Godreaman, Merthyr Tydfil, Pontsticill.
10. RHONDDA & PONTYPRIDD DISTRICT: Ferndale, Porth, Treforest, Treorchy.
11. CARDIFF WEST DISTRICT: Barry, Ely, Penarth, Wenvoe, Fairwater, Pontyeyimmer.
12. CARDIFF EAST DISTRICT: Cardiff, Cory Hall, Llanishen, Rhiwbina, Riverside, Roath, Splott, Gabalfa.
13. RHYMNEY VALLEY DISTRICT: Abertridwr, Bargoed, Bedwas, Caerphilly, Llanbradach, Pentwynmawr, Pontlottyn, Ystrad-mynach.
14. MONMOUTHSHIRE NORTH DISTRICT: Abertillery, Beaufort, Blaenavon, Griffithstown, Pontypool, Usk.
15. MONMOUTHSHIRE SOUTH DISTRICT: Chepstow, Langstone, Maindee, Newport.

have two languages, two national anthems and two flags. It is the work of Toc H to show that the loyalties are in no way betrayed by association with the Movement. Already we have Branches where business and pleasure are carried out in Welsh, although as an act of courtesy English is spoken when visitors are present.

### Post-war development

For administrative purposes Wales is divided into four Divisions: Clwyd-Conwy, Mon-Arfon, South Wales and West Wales. The Marches Division, which includes Shropshire, has been strengthened by the addition of a number of Branches in the counties of Denbigh and Montgomery. The post-war development of Toc H in Wales has been steady and consistent. Since the cessation of hostilities Toc H in Wales has applied itself to extension and expansion. Many Branches and groups which were moribund before 1939 have now ceased to be included in the lists of Branches periodically published in the JOURNAL. It is good news, however, to be able to report that over twenty new Branches have grown up in recent years and all the while new contacts are being effected. The key word of Divisional and District Teams is 'Forward' and there is no doubt about it.

### Welsh qualities

It is not proposed in this survey to go over the special work of each Division and District. All are bending themselves to the task of wiping out the original handicap of Toc H in Wales, first by establishing the Movement firmly and later by a sort of blood transfusion to give to the Movement the best qualities of Welsh culture. Other movements brought into Wales (the Sunday School is an example) have benefited by contact with Welsh life and have become greater and stronger by reason of that contact. We hope that in the course of the years Toc H will absorb to itself some of the qualities of the Welsh and that it will send back over the border men and women in whose hearts there will be a burning zeal to work for God's Kingdom in the wills of men. E.V.T.

★ ★ ★

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: *Grateful acknowledgement is made to the MIDLAND BANK LTD. for the picture on the front cover.*

# Halton Comes to Tower Hill

*On May 19, in response to an earlier invitation, the members of Halton (R.A.F.) Branch paid a visit to Tower Hill. Here is an account of their trip written by one of them.*

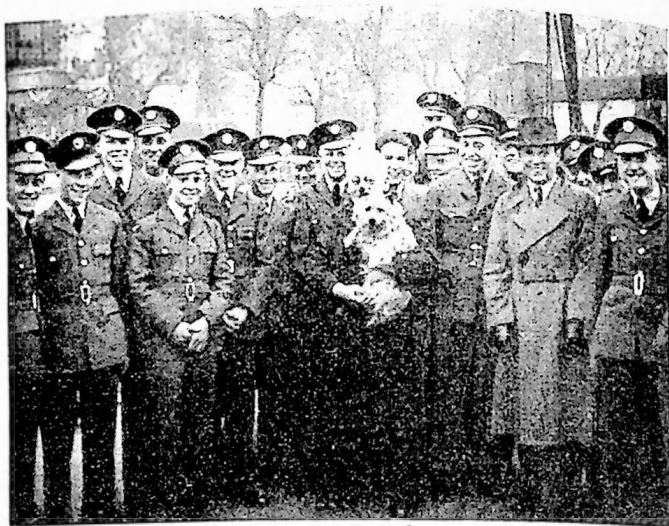
OUR TRUSTY CHARIOT abandoned us at Lincoln's Inn Fields and we arrived *via* the Underground. We then embarked on a river launch at Tower Pier, under the watchful eye of Ben Miles, with both Tubby and the almost as famous Chippie on board.

During the trip up river, whilst the skipper was doing the necessary navigating, the second member of the crew gave us a commentary on the various places of interest on both banks. To Londoners, places like St. Paul's, the Monument, Battersea Power Station and Scotland Yard are everyday sights, but to us 'foreigners' they are magical to behold. The Festival of Britain Exhibition on the South Bank aroused much comment and interest, especially the Skylon.

Turning after passing Chelsea bridge, it was Tubby who then took over the commentary. Braving the rain and spray, we clustered round Tubby who showed that his wide knowledge was also balanced by an inborn love for the Thames. Near the end of the trip 'Chippie' provided an amusing incident when introduced to the megaphone, and soon after we rather reluctantly disembarked at Tower Pier. We gathered at a corner for a few minutes while Tubby told us some more about the real London he knows and loves.

With an hour to spare the Branch split up, some going to the Tower, where they were fortunate enough to see Her Majesty Queen Mary, and the others to 'Forty-Two' Trinity Square. At six o'clock we all gathered at Forty-Two for an excellent supper and afterwards adjourned to the lower lounge. Here we were introduced by Tubby to Colonel the Rev. Louis O. Heck, of the United States Army, who told us some amusing stories.

We were then handed over to Jack Lyon and his charming wife, Jean, who took us on a visit to All Hallows church. Such things as the Prince's Lamp and the Undercroft will always



*Tubby, with some of the R.A.F. Halton Branch members*

remain in our memories. Our interest was also aroused by the painting of Tower Hill as it will be when the improvements have been completed.

Leaving All Hallows, more refreshments followed, after which Geoff Gavey, a Toc H member who is also a Yeoman Warder, explained the Ceremony of the Keys. At 9.40 p.m. we gathered at the Traitors' Gate to witness the actual ceremony and this, to the writer's mind, made the perfect ending to our visit.

Finally, we in the R.A.F. Halton Branch feel that our debt to Tubby is something we can never repay, for he was the main organiser behind this memorable outing. Our thanks are also due to Ben Miles, Jack and Jean, Stan, Geoff and all at Forty-Two for the very hard work they put in for us. On the Branch side our thanks go to Herbert Oxley and John Church who made the necessary arrangements at our end.

Halton Branch, with members among the youngest in the country, came away from Tower Hill feeling that in Toc H we have found the Christian idea of Service which this troubled world so badly needs.

P.D.A.



## Multum in Parvo

❖ Padre E. CLIFF BARBER has left Gladstone House, Liverpool, and the North-Western Area to become a Marks Padre in London at Mark II, 123 St. George's Square, S.W.1.

❖ CHARLES YOUNG has gone from the Western to the Northern Area, where he is now Area Secretary at 113 Westgate Road, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 1. In the Western Area, DOUGLAS GREEN has accepted the office of Hon. Area Correspondent.

❖ KEITH REA, D.F.M., has resigned from the Staff as Assistant Accountant on leaving London to live in Birmingham. Our good wishes go with him. His resignation causes a vacancy in the Accounts Department at Headquarters for a man (preferably a member) in the middle twenties with experience of accountancy. The Chief Accountant will welcome applications, which should state age, experience and degree of mobility. This is an urgent matter; application should be made by July 14.

❖ THE WORLD CHAIN OF LIGHT will be started in WALES this year and observed at 9 p.m. on Tuesday, December 11, from Wales westward to the Pacific and at 9 p.m. on Wednesday, December 12, from New Zealand to Wales—that is, in Australia, Asia, Africa, Europe, and most of England.

❖ Received in response to the BROADCAST APPEAL on April 8: £4,420, with thankfulness for 2,972 old and new friends.

❖ Members of Toc H, both of Regular and General Branches, who pay any part of their Income Tax at the full standard rate may increase their own and their Branches' voluntary gifts to the Family Purse without further cost to themselves by signing a seven-year DEED OF COVENANT. By recovery of tax, every guinea contributed becomes £2. *Members' Deed of Covenant forms* (as distinct from Toc H Builders' forms) can be obtained from Headquarters and Area Offices.



*Mark XVIII, Newcastle, from the original drawing by James O. L. Brass.*

## Newcastle's New Mark

**I**N 1925, Padre Bob Slater and five Marksmen camped out in a house at Grainger Park Road, Newcastle, and spent their spare time in scrubbing and generally getting the place ship-shape. General Sir Charles Harington duly opened the house, as Toc H Mark XVIII, in April, 1926.

Now, in 1951, a quarter of a century later, we find that we shall be doing exactly the same, this time at "Glendyn", Toc H Mark XVIII, Jesmond Park West, Newcastle, 7.

The new Mark is in a fine position overlooking Jesmond Dene, a place with a great history which was formerly a goal of pilgrimage known as "Jesus Mount". It still has the remains of a chapel, dedicated to "Our Lady of Jesmond", to which pilgrims journeyed from all over the country, offering their prayers and tasting the waters of the nearby 'holy' well. The new Mark will have a great tradition to live up to. Your prayers are asked that it may be set upon sure foundations and be a real centre for the whole of the Northern Area.

The house has fourteen main rooms and five smaller ones. These will provide a Chapel, a Quiet Room, a Dining Room, a Lounge and a place for meetings. Accommodation is being planned for twenty-eight men.

The Duke of Northumberland has launched an appeal for £6,000 to cover the cost of the move and adaptations. Existing memorial rooms are being transferred from the old Mark and there will still be about eight rooms available for dedication in memory of other Elder Brethren. J.G.F.

## A Sporting Guest-night

EARLIER THIS YEAR, St. George, a Toc H Branch in Bristol District, together with sportsmen guests entertained 130 boys of the local Approved School at a special Guest-night.

Mr. Colwyn Evans, a Boxing Referee, who in his hey-day as a sportsman represented Britain and Wales against all-comers and who lost only one of his 204 amateur fights (he also has been capped seven times for the Army at Rugger), opened the Guest-night by saying "a good Christian and a good boxer have the same mottoes—it is better to give than to receive".

Assisting him in a demonstration was Albert Bessell, feather-weight champion of the West. They called upon five of the boys to answer a quiz and presented the winner with a pair of 8-oz. gloves.

This was followed by a talk and demonstration by Don Clark, captain of the Bristol City football team. On the small stage, with a boy as an assistant, he gave a fascinating display of ball control and tactics.

To round off the evening, Billy Hole, captain of Bristol Bulldog speedway team, Match Race Champion 1949, gave the 'low-down' on cinder shifting, and created more laughter even than is usual at the local Music Hall!

The accent was on real team spirit, fitness and sportsmanship, and the Branch hope that from time to time they will repeat the experiment by bringing other such sportsmen to the School to help foster in the boys these qualities which are inherent in all real sport. D.McK.

# Othona

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ON THE COAST of Essex where the beautiful River Blackwater joins the sea and about ten miles from Southminster there is a ten-acre field. Nearby stands an ancient and isolated chapel which was built nearly fourteen hundred years ago on the ruins of a Roman fort called Ithancester.

In the field there are half a dozen Nissen huts. These, with tents and marquees, house from ten to thirty men, women and often children for periods ranging from a few days to a couple of weeks during June, July, August and September.

All kinds of people come. Some are leaders and teachers and others are manual workers in the different fields of human activity. They come from different parts of this country and often from other countries too. In the morning there are chores and jobs for a time. In the afternoon recreation takes the form of boating, swimming, walking and so on.

After tea we have a talk from some competent leader. There is a main theme for each week. It may be on drama, or healing or on some devotional or scientific theme—put simply and linked up with the all-important business of leading a vital and realistic Christian life. Every morning and evening there are simple family prayers in the old chapel—but no one is compelled to come. Visitors just please themselves.

There are four good meals a day and good beds.

Costs are kept as low as possible and are from two pounds to two pounds ten shillings for adults, and half for children.

The life is not luxurious. Indeed it is not an experience which pampers anyone. But in the last six years many hundreds have stayed at the place and few have not wanted to come again. It is a holiday with a Christian purpose; but the atmosphere is wonderfully informal. *It is different.*

All kinds are invited—whatever their views.

There are vacancies this year in some weeks. If you are interested and would like to know more about it, will you send for information to: Padre Norman Motley, Othona, Bradwell-on-Sea, Southminster, Essex.



OTHONA: *The VII Century Chapel, built by Bishop Cedd.*

# Something New at the Old Town Hall

AT THE ANNUAL MEETING of the Central Council, the thorny question of finance was again the subject of discussion, especially in view of the deficit of approximately £10,000, as shown by the accounts for the year ended October, 1950.

Many suggestions and ideas were aired for raising funds to wipe out this huge sum during this Year of Festival and also for endeavouring to supplement the Family Purse in the future.

Ted Tanner of Tetbury (Western Area) gave a brief outline of a money-raising scheme which, in his humble estimation, could raise £10,000 quite easily, not only this year but, conditions being equal, any year. Hence the heading 'Something new at the Old Town Hall' which is the title to a prospectus explaining the Tetbury scheme!

On the opposite page is a miniature reproduction of the foolscap prospectus. Here are some additional notes:

- (a) Conditions of sale are not detailed here, but appear on back of prospectus [copy can be obtained].
- (b) Household furniture and effects not accepted (Tanner is in the trade—reasons obvious) Toc H does not seek to oppose existing . . . etc.
- (c) Auctioneers' Licences—See Finance Act, 1949. Section 14. Abolition of excise duties, etc.

Although the scheme is foolproof and will undoubtedly produce the necessary results (Tetbury's effort raising £45 in commission) a certain amount of auction technique is essential, but that is easily overcome if a Branch decided to embark. If you haven't a man in the Branch who is a member of that profession, then extend and get one, or at worst borrow his brains for the occasion (extension in simple stages!) *N.B.* Tetbury added to their numbers by their venture.

It was found that people welcomed the scheme, both those who know of and are interested in Toc H and the others who

# Something New at the **TOWN HALL, TETBURY**

The TETBURY BRANCH OF TOC H in its effort to raise funds for the local Old Folks' Entertainments, etc., invite you to co-operate with them in a

## **UNIQUE AUCTION SALE**

to be hold on

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21st, 1950**

**commencing at 3 p.m.**

Briefly stated their plan is this—To sell for you by Auction on a commission basis articles in your possession which have a commercial value to you, but for some reason are no longer required, and which are too good to give away or pass on to rummage collectors. Items such as WEARING APPAREL, including SUITS, COSTUMES, COATS, CHILDREN'S OUTFITS, (but excluding hats and footwear), HOUSEHOLD LINEN and CURTAINS, CHILDREN'S TOYS and BICYCLES (Household Furniture and effects are not accepted). It must be emphasised for obvious reasons that

### **THIS IS NOT A SALE OF USELESS ARTICLES**

#### **What you have to do :**

At the foot of this notice is a detachable Form, which please complete as directed and send to MR. S. E. TANNER, 31 HAMPTON STREET, TETBURY, not later than Saturday, 30th September. You are then requested to deliver your selected articles for sale to the Town Hall on either Thursday or Friday, October 12th or 13th, between 7 and 8 p.m. in order that the Organisers may catalogue the various articles received.

CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE AND SALE OVERLEAF.

**IMPORTANT.**—Before filling in this Form, please read the Conditions overleaf, carefully.

To THE TETBURY BRANCH OF TOC H.

*I intend bringing to The Town Hall on the appointed day the undermentioned goods for sale, and I agree to abide with the conditions of sale as set out by you.*

No. of Articles	Description	Reserve Price (if any)
1	Gent's Suit	none

*I authorise you to deduct from the amount realised the following rate of commission, which I understand is to cover overhead expenses, and be my contribution to the funds you mention.*

Commission Rates: 50% 33½% 25% 20% 10%

(Please strike out the unnecessary figures)

Signed.....(Mr., Mrs., Miss)

Address.....

Wright & Son, Printers, Tetbury, Glos.

wanted to dispose of goods which although no longer useful were too good to give away or pass on to rummage collectors. Rummage sales we admit yield 100 per cent. but the populace gets tired of appeals by every kind of organisation, and this is *something new* and attracts people in addition to those who will still give things 100 per cent. for sale. Tetbury *know*, they have proved it and are convinced that if each of the 1,000 Units in Toc H organised such a sale in true Toc H style, between now and October, 1951, £10,000 (£10 per Unit at least) could be raised for the Family Purse.

S.E.T.

For further details of the scheme, write to S. E. Tanner, 31 Hampton Street, Tetbury, Gloucestershire, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope for the reply.

## Festival Centre of Youth

Toc H members and their friends visiting London this summer, and especially those connected with or interested in the work of our national youth organisations, may like to be reminded that the Standing Conference of National Voluntary Youth Organisations (SCNVYO) have established a Festival Centre of Youth at St. Anne's House, Soho.

An arch below the Tuscan Hotel on the north side of Shaftesbury Avenue, three minutes' walk from Piccadilly Circus, leads into the courtyard of one of London's bombed churches. Backing on to this courtyard are the premises known as St. Anne's House. There is also an entrance at 57 Dean Street. Here until September 15, there is a Reception Hall, Information Bureau and Bookstall, together with examples of the activities of the different Youth Organisations, and the public will be welcome, without charge, from 10.00 a.m. till 6.00 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays and from 10.00 a.m. until 8.00 p.m. on Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

A special welcome is offered to overseas visitors, for whom a number of special receptions will be held.

# "Something Attempted . . . !"

*This unvarnished story of our Branch's determined efforts towards securing adequate accommodation may well hearten other units in large towns and cities, who are faced with a similar problem.*

SOME FIVE YEARS AGO Birmingham Central Branch were faced with the all too common problem of finding a new home, and a search began for a humble room near the centre of this great city. However, such is the demand for accommodation that the only place available was a small hut behind a church in Ladywood, and there we met weekly while continuing our search.

Ladywood was explored, and we 'drew a blank'. In doing so we discovered that Toc H was not the only movement in like need. In the whole of this ward, packed with slum dwellings and many thousands of inhabitants, there was no adequate meeting place. Church and school premises were sadly lacking in amenities, and the communal life of the district almost nil.

## Germ of an idea

Then came the germ of an idea. We heard that a local councillor (Councillor Boughton) had thought much about this same problem and we wondered if Toc H could call a public meeting, to be held in our very inadequate hut, and invite representatives of all local organisations to consider what could be done about it. It was evident at this first meeting that we had 'rung a bell', and it was decided to hold a further and more representative meeting. At this it was decided to start a "Ladywood and District Community Association", which would invite affiliation from all local organisations, and would itself be affiliated to the Birmingham Council of Community Associations. The secretary of that body, Mr. A. S. Davis, guided us in the matter and has remained a "power behind the throne" ever since.

All this of course was but a beginning, and then our troubles

started. A very complete survey revealed the fact that there was nowhere suitable for a community centre in the whole district. But we did not let it go at that. An organisation was in being, if mainly on paper, and our own Reg Humphries and Councillor Boughton at any rate believed that something more could be done. It was decided at this stage that an appeal be made to the city council with the hope that a site could be provided and some financial assistance to put a temporary building upon it.

### Down to work

Then Toc H came in again. If the councillors for the ward could present a petition from several thousands of the local inhabitants for a community centre their hands would be strengthened. And so we got to work. Night after night we tramped the streets and alleys, getting signatures and support for the scheme, and it was evident that the need for the proposed centre was very great. We were able to arm the councillors with the required petition. (It was completed just on time!) and was duly presented to the city council. The upshot was that the Education Committee agreed to provide a sum of several hundreds of pounds for the acquisition and furnishing of a centre. But again the suitable centre or site could not be found!!

Then came a break in the clouds, and from a most unexpected direction. The National Health Act came into being and, such is our illogical democracy, a building used for many years as a general dispensary was declared as unsuitable to be taken over under the Act, and so became vacant! Again, by dint of hard work by councillors and Mr. Davis, the building was offered to the Community Association at a peppercorn rent and to be redecorated and furnished by the city council.

### Nearing completion

And so at the Annual General Meeting of the Ladywood & District Community Association on Tuesday, April 3, 1951, the premises were duly shown to us in their finished (or almost finished) state, complete with a large hall for meetings, dances, drama, etc., four smaller rooms, and an equipped canteen!

Toc H was publicly thanked for all they had done towards the scheme, and now what of the future? Well, the centre will provide a unique opportunity for corporate service for Birmingham & St. Mary's Branch.

We are affiliated to the centre, and can at any time use it. We are represented on its committee and are assisting its officers. And the name of Toc H stands high in Ladywood at this time. Perhaps we feel a little bit proud of it all; but—we also think of what we are committed to in the future.

"HAWKEYE"

## 'Saint Joan'

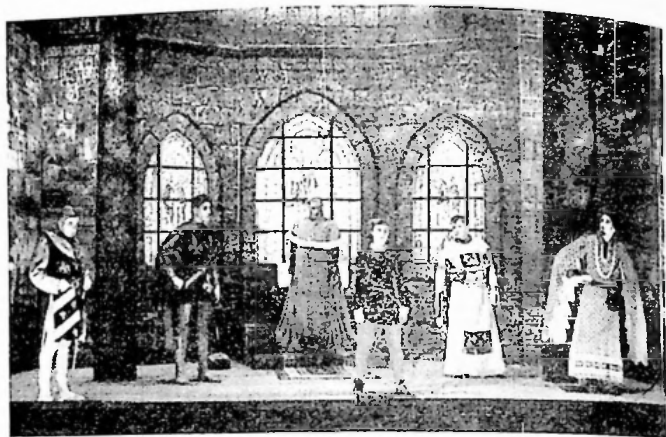
*"THE 'TORCH PLAYERS' of Wimbledon Toc H have a fine reputation as amateur actors to keep up. And, in conjunction with their local Community Association, they kept it up finely in the Wimbledon Town Hall for five evenings, June 4—8.*

**S**AINTE JOAN is Shaw's masterpiece: of it he says, "It is the easiest play I have ever had to write". But, even so, it is certainly *not* the easiest play to produce. It is exciting, full of potential dramatic content, but long and difficult. The director, PATRICK PARTRIDGE, supported by a devoted and talented company and a most cunning set-designer, LESLIE MAGGS, surmounted the difficulties and presented a production which was well up to their usual almost professional standards.

There were several occasions when a glowing group of colour and the effectiveness of the set excited spontaneous bursts of applause from a large audience for just *décor* alone. Of these the Court scene at Chinon and the ambulatory at Rheims, where, for example, great care had been taken to construct stained glass windows which were a precise copy of the originals, were particularly memorable.

Space forbids a detailed criticism of either the production but mention must be made of some highlights of acting. Joan herself (MAUREEN DAVIDSON) had the small sturdy figure of the ideal Joan and spoke with the sincerity and simplicity that the part demands. Occasionally in her scenes with The Archbishop of Rheims (JOHN GOWER) her voice suffered by contrast; it would be hard to imagine otherwise for this young player

had a voice which in range, in fullness and control challenged any I have heard on the amateur stage. In addition his ability both to stand and move with grace made him stand out in a company where the competition is severe.



CHARLES: . . . this coronation, which is all your fault, has cost me the last farthing I can borrow.

JOHN: The Church is richer than you. I put my trust in the Church.

ARCHBISHOP: Woman, they will drag you through the streets and burn you as a witch.

Two fine pieces of character acting were that of the Dauphin (PIERRE BOULENGER) who could pass from his nervous twitterings to a suggestion of underlying dignity; and John de Stogumber (STANLEY WITHERS) whose hysterical collapse and decay to senility was very effective.

The Director himself was a beautifully quiet and dignified Inquisitor and almost made us forget that his long speech runs into many pages! The actor playing De Baudricourt (GEOFFREY NUGUS) doubled the Earl of Warwick sufficiently well to fool anyone who hadn't carefully studied the programme but at the expense of some lack of clarity in the first character which failed to establish firmly the first scene causing it to drag; this was the main fault I had to find in a production whose eventual climb to dramatic climax made a truly rewarding evening.

PETER SMITH.

# Canterbury Festival

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**IT DIDN'T RAIN** on Saturday, May 19. Surprisingly the sun shone upon the seven hundred men and women who gathered together for the Kent Area Festival in Canterbury. From noon groups of people could be seen making their way to the cathedral. Each group seemed to possess one man who carried a strange looking parcel under his arm. The parcel was later revealed to be the Branch banner, for at 3.15 the procession of some forty banner bearers made their way to the nave altar. The Canterbury banner was received by the Dean, Dr. Hewlett Johnson, who shortly before the service began, had welcomed the Mayor and Mayoress of Canterbury. The lessons were read by the Archdeacon of Canterbury and by the Dean, the cathedral choir sang and a forceful sermon was preached by Padre Norman Motley.

After tea a Festival evening was held in the Chapter House. Indeed the Chapter House was so full that people were standing at the back of it. After the procession of banners the Area Chairman, John Goss, welcomed the assembled company and himself conducted in typical Gossian style, the community singing. Canterbury Branch then produced the 'Gorgonzola' Branch, an epitome of what a Toc H unit should *not* be. Light was taken by a one-time Area Chairman, Tom Gilbert, who from the Canterbury Lamp lit the Lamps of the four newest Branches.

After 'Light' John Durham, the Area Padre, clutched the microphone and for a moment the company feared that he was going to croon to them. All that he did, however, was to introduce, John Callf, already well known to many Toc H men in Kent. As John had recently written a book on how to speak, he was listened to with an appropriate degree of attention. It is enough to say that it was John Callf at his best. After the Chairman had said our thanks, the Area Padre led everybody in home-going prayers.

Spies reported that folk enjoyed the Festival.

# Children take the Stage

Everyone knows that 'dramatics' play a part in modern education, but most people would have been surprised to see how extensive a part it can be if they had seen a huge wedding in Lewisham Town Hall at the end of May. And the whole varied and delightful entertainment was devised and produced by Harry Geil, who was until this year a member of the Central Executive and Chairman of the South Eastern London Area. For Harry is headmaster of one of the twenty-seven schools which staged the show.

The Lewisham Children's Theatre Guild has been at work since May and holds a Festival every May. The very large cast of children, the orchestra of teachers, the scenery constructed in school handicraft and art rooms, the line cuts on the covers of the programme come from the schools themselves. They are 'home-made' and so a joy to the makers as to the beholders. The evening's programme was as ambitious in the scale of the very fine Town Hall it filled—or sometimes did not quite fill—with children's voices, speaking or singing. It traced the long history of drama in six episodes, each with an ingenious prelude of its own. A moving scene from the *Prometheus Bound* of Aeschylus was preluded by the procession of the Greek audience to the temple. Dancers and mummers on the village green ushered in the most amusing mediæval play of *St. George and the Dragon*. The many-coloured and boisterous crowd in the pit of an Elizabethan theatre made way for scenes from *Henry V*. After the interval, a street scene in eighteenth-century dress introduced an episode of *The School for Scandal*; a very realistic modern theatre-queue, complete with 'buskers' and a 'gate-crasher', went in to witness a charming piece by A. A. Milne. Lastly the school playground, with rival games by boys and girls, led up to the beautiful and humorous school-room drama of *Hynd Horn*. What a feast of learning, light and joyfulness!

B.B.

# A Bag of BOOKS



## WHAT SORT OF PEOPLE?

*English Life and Leisure*, by B. Seebohm Rowntree and G. R. Lavers. (Longmans. 15s.)

The first question many of us have to ask about a book nowadays is its price, and this volume of nearly five hundred large pages, excellently printed and bound, is remarkably cheap by modern standards. Its contents are never cheap and much of them will come as a shock to many readers. But Mr. Seebohm Rowntree has a great and long-standing record as an investigator, and the unpalatable facts in this book, like those in his earlier *Poverty* (a study of York), will be hard to challenge. He sets out to discover in detail how we spend our spare time (and cash) and then to judge from that what sort of people we are.

What sort of people? The writers devote more than a quarter of their book to the "case histories" of two hundred persons over twenty, and twenty persons under that age. These very intimate biographies ('no names, no pack drill') are chosen out of a very much larger number collected and they cover most kinds of English people from country vicars and doctors' wives to prostitutes, both cheap and expensive. As you turn these fascinating pages you will get a general impression that the great majority of English people gamble more or less, that a surprisingly high proportion are 'sexually promiscuous', that quite a lot drink more than is good for them, that comparatively few read much (*The Daily Mirror* and *The News of the World* appear again and again as the limit), and, above all, that quite a small minority have any live religious beliefs (Communists, in their own faith, are among the exceptions) or any use for the Churches.

The chapters which follow these 'case histories' on the whole rub in this general impression with careful analysis

and many figures. 'How honest is Britain?' is the title of one, and its conclusions are rather depressing. The authors take a level-headed view of football pools, without approving of them. They believe that the effect of the cinema on crime has been much exaggerated and that children's films are definitely a benefit. But they claim their most important chapter to be that on religion, which they believe to be the only foundation of a better England. Their careful census of church attendances on various dates shows, as one would expect, that the decline in the Anglican and Free Churches has been serious and continuous; only the Roman Catholic Church has held its ground so far. These writers do not believe that the reformed churches will ever recapture their old position but they are not at all despairing of true religion; they quote with approval Dean Inge when he says, "A rebirth of spiritual religion, as in former revivals, will be very independent of the Churches and not too kindly regarded by ecclesiastics . . . Christianity began as a lay prophetic religion . . . it is upon the laity that the future of Christianity depends." Some of our members will regret that, among the large number of 'bodies' referred to in this book, Toc H is never mentioned. For has it not something to say and do about all this?

B.B.

## A BOOK ON BOOKS

*Enjoying Books*, by Geoffrey Trease. (Phoenix House, 7s. 6d.)

No stranger to these pages is the author of this book, for an article *Catch 'em Young*, written by Geoffrey Trease, appeared in the April number of the JOURNAL. While primarily addressed to young people and designed to help them find books they will enjoy, many elder readers will be glad to take more than one pointer from this literary signpost.

Within the scope of its ten chapters the wide field of English literature is pleasantly surveyed, and the references range from *King Solomon's Mines* to *The New Statesman*. A strong case is made out for play-reading on one's own: "Many novels . . . are nearly all dialogue anyhow."

In a chapter titled 'Rhyme and Reason' Mr. Trease disclaims any desire to "make poetry lovers out of people who

hate the stuff". At the same time it is hard to imagine that any reader could fail to catch the music and splendour of G. K. Chesterton's *Lepanto* after being given such an enthusiastic and knowledgeable introduction. The modern poets are also discussed in a sympathetic manner.

Dealing with the reading of biographies, three tests are applied: (1) Is the subject important or interesting? (2) Is the book true? (3) Is it well written? Essays, Diaries and Letters are also introduced in entertaining fashion.

An appendix lists 'Some books you may enjoy' and whatever one's own view on *The Hundred Best Books* or any such arbitrary selection, it must be admitted that the suggested seventy-seven titles form a compact library of catholic variety.

In his earlier article Mr. Trease suggested taking every opportunity to put 'good' literature in the path of children one knows. Here is an outsize opportunity to provide them with a wise and skilful guide.

CHES.

## A FESTIVAL BROCHURE

1951 *Festival Brochure of West Wickham* produced by the Coney Hall Branch of Toc H (1s. od.)

Toc H Branches throughout the land have been taking an active share in a wide variety of local Festival activities. This booklet provides an outstanding example of how a Branch can help the community and at the same time deepen their own roots in a district.

Besides listing a full programme of the week's events, the Brochure gives a potted history of "West Wickham from the Stone Age", 20 contrasting photographs of the district, past and present, and a classified directory of local organisations.

A novel introduction to Toc H is supplied by a half-page headed "Who is this Man?" Without making any direct reference to the Movement it draws a comprehensive picture of a working member, finally indicating that the answer will be found on an earlier page. Here, a small panel gives the news that he is a member of Toc H, with the name and address of the Branch Secretary. Congratulations to Coney Hall Branch.

# Branch Briefs

NEWS

■ The combined efforts of BRIGHTON & HOVE and KENTISH TOWN resulted in twenty old folk from Kentish Town having an enjoyable week's free holiday at Brighton.

■ The ancient Rogationtide ceremony of treading the footpaths was this year organised by KESTON (Kent).

■ Chapel fittings from the late GRAVESEND Toc H Services Club have been sent to 'Jock' Brown for use at Gibraltar, thanks to the welcome assistance of Mr. S. T. Calder of the General Steam Navigation Company and Mr. C. W. Peters of MacAndrews & Co., who arranged for their free transport.

■ The Disabled Fellowship organised by ROWDITCH (Derby) now has thirty members. We regret that lack of space prevents printing the account of their first outing written by one of the disabled members.

■ At the Twenty-fifth Birthday celebrations of PENZANCE, Barkis spoke on old Cornish legends and customs, drawing analogies from the past to fit the present.

■ "The Board wishes particularly to acknowledge the fine work undertaken by the Libraries Committee of Toc H in adding to the welfare of patients in this way. The untiring efforts of these Toc H voluntary helpers, involving many hours of unpaid service each week, over many years past, is greatly appreciated by both patients and the Board".

—From *Annual Report of Sheffield United Hospitals Board*.

■ The rest garden being laid out by CORBY is beginning to take shape and arousing local interest.

■ Over fifty members and friends were present at a recent Guest-night organised by STOCKPORT at Bramhall Hall, an historic fourteenth-century mansion. During the evening supper was served in the banqueting hall and 'Light' taken in the chapel.

■ Due to gifts from many sources, DUKINFIELD report increased distribution of books to the local hospital.



*The Editor welcomes letters on all matters concerning Toc H. For reasons of space the right is reserved to shorten letters received, but every effort is made to print a representative selection.*

### Can you beat it?

DEAR EDITOR,

In the June issue Harold Deason of Loughton reported that they had organised a concert which enabled them to send £20 to the Family Purse and wanted to know "Can you beat it?"

We at Bedwas were also concerned about the deficit of £10,000 and put on a play at the Local Hall with the result that we were able to send £37 2s. 8d. to the Family Purse.

We would like to record our appreciation on behalf of Toc H to the Cardiff Y.M.C.A. Players who when approached, readily agreed to give their services free.

Thank you Loughton for the idea "Can you beat it?", it is grand, and I feel sure that it will spur other Branches to have a go, and that our figure will be beaten.

Bedwas, Mon. JOHN F. SEXON.

### Progress—Whither?

DEAR EDITOR,

I was surprised to read your article "Progress — Whither?" in the May JOURNAL. One hardly expects to read such stuff in the popular Press.

What Local Authority would allow a Council Housing Estate to degenerate into such conditions?

If the facts *are not* exaggerated, why does the writer hide behind a *nom de plume*, or lack the courage to name the place.

How many houses are there on the estate and how many houses were visited? Whilst one would agree that *some* of the facts would apply to *some* individual areas, I suggest that it is the exception rather than the rule.

Whilst one does not wish to understate a case, please do not let's overstate.

W. C. COLLINS.

Newbury, Berks.

[*The writer used a nom de plume for professional reasons, and the facts were verified before printing—Ed.*]

### Braille Annual

DEAR EDITOR,

On the cover page of the June JOURNAL you refer to the reprint of the *Braille Annual* being completely sold out before a copy could be presented to the National Libraries for the Blind. May I say that when the Annual

was first announced in July, 1950, the Sale Branch, acting on behalf of the other Branches in and around Manchester, collected two bob each from twenty-one Branches and with this help copies of the *Annual* were presented to the local Institution for the Blind (Henshaw's Institution) and to *The National Library for the Blind*, Northern Branch, Deansgate, Manchester. Your copy is obviously wanted for the Head Office of the Library in London.

FRED H. JOHNSON.

*Sale, Cheshire.*

### Overseas Students

DEAR EDITOR,

Bill Llewellyn's appeal to meet African students is excellent; but may I widen it to include the whole of the 11,000 students from the Colonies and the East of whom only a half are in the London area? Moreover very many of these men and women are post-graduates well able to contribute much to our knowledge and outlook if invited to speak at Branch meetings. Few have time to attend regular meetings, but they are interested in the social organisation of this country and welcome occasional opportunities of sharing in visits to places of interest, factories, etc., and of joining in social events.

They are to be found in every university town and also in places like Lincoln, Northampton, Loughborough, Stockton,

Bolton and Rugby where they are at Technical colleges, or in industry. There are over 800 nurses, too, scattered in hospitals all over the country. If any Branch does not know how to find students this Council of which I am secretary can help.

MAURICE COLE.

*East & West Friendship Council,*  
101 Gower Street,  
London, W.C.1

### Gold Diggers

DEAR EDITOR,

The Malmesbury Branch are proposing to raise funds for Toc H by reclaiming gold from old dentures. We would welcome the assistance of other Branches in collecting old dentures and would they kindly send them direct to: James Melsome, 14 Cross Hayes, Malmesbury, Wilts.

JACK MARTIN.

*Malmesbury, Wilts.*

### Bulb Offer

DEAR EDITOR,

Pinchbeck Branch will be offering top quality tulip bulbs again this year in aid of the Family Purse. Full details will appear in the September JOURNAL, but we can say now that lots of 500 or more bulbs will be sold at a special price so that units will be able to sell them at a profit, and so help to swell their own contributions.

GEORGE R. PACEY.

*Knight Street,*

*Pinchbeck,*

*New Spalding, Lincs.*